

# SCR & SER Forest Health Update

## Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

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### Eastern tent caterpillars are out making tents!



Photo taken on April 26, 2006

Infestations by the eastern tent caterpillar and their tents were found in Walworth County. Caterpillars were about 1/3 to 1/2 inches in length (April 26, 2006). The eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) is native to Wisconsin. Though the population fluctuates and occasionally reaches high level, infestations are found to some level every year. Infestations are commonly seen on open grown trees and trees on the roadside or along fence rows. The eastern tent caterpillar favors cherry and apple trees though it also feeds on some other deciduous trees.

The caterpillars hatch when the buds begin to open, and construct a silken tent on a fork of branches. They continue to feed for about 6 weeks and pupate. An adult is a reddish-brown moth. There is one generation per year. Heavily defoliated trees will produce a second set of leaves once feeding is over. However, the refoilation process will further stress the trees.

There is a nice UW Extension fact sheet about the eastern tent caterpillar at <http://s142412519.onlinehome.us/uw/pdfs/A2933.PDF> to hand out to the curious public.

### Gypsy Moth Update



Photo taken on May 2, 2006

Caterpillars started hatching April 19<sup>th</sup> in Rock County and hatch is close to peaking (as of May 2<sup>nd</sup>). Spray season will be starting about the middle of this month.

For updates and locations of spray plans call the gypsy moth hotline at 1-800-642-MOTH(6684). Or check out the following web sites:

For DNR Suppression Sprays (Brown, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Rock):

[http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/fh/GM/spray\\_areas/index.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/fh/GM/spray_areas/index.htm)

For DATCP Slow the Spread (Western Counties):

[http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/gypsy-moth/map\\_index.jsp](http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/gypsy-moth/map_index.jsp)

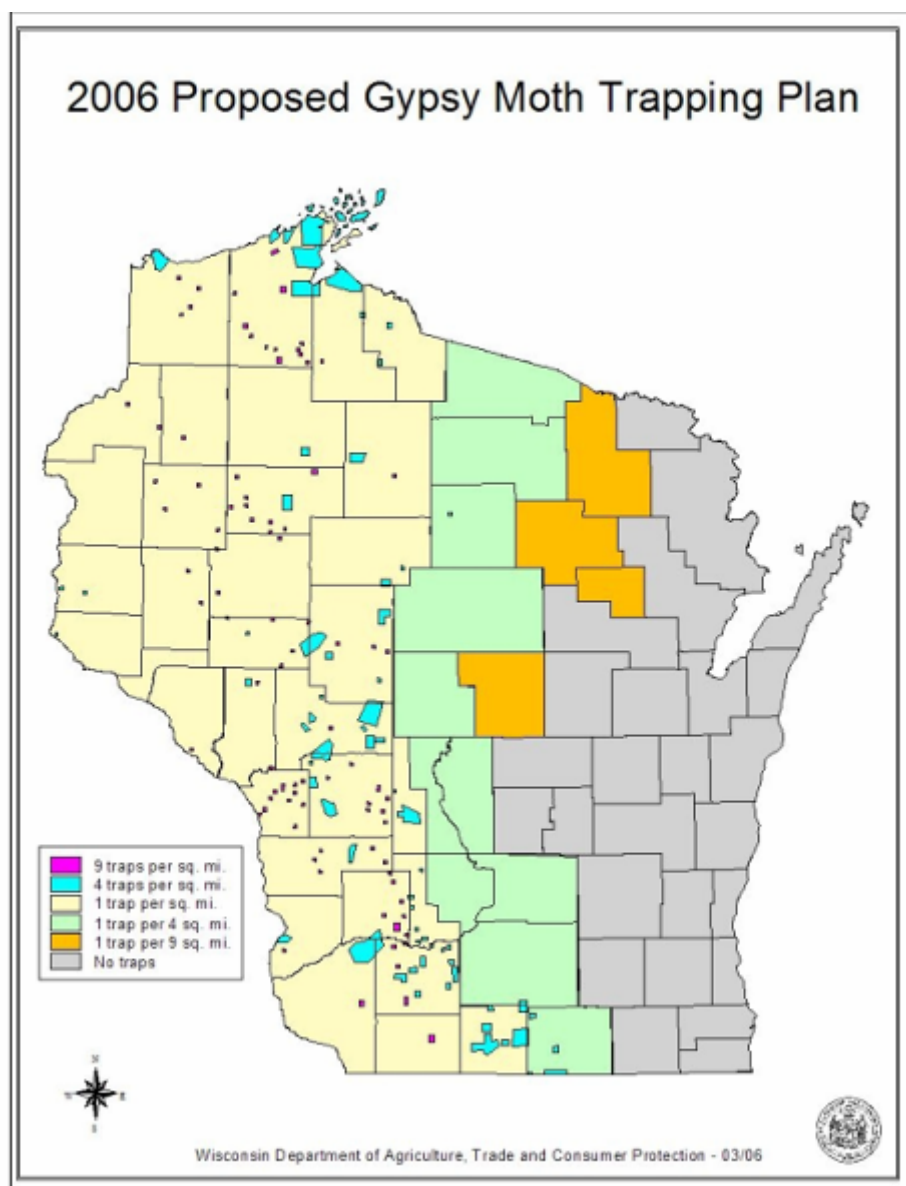
Another DATCP site to monitor progress of STS treatments in western counties:

[http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/gypsy-moth/pdf/2006\\_spray\\_chart.pdf](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/gypsy-moth/pdf/2006_spray_chart.pdf)

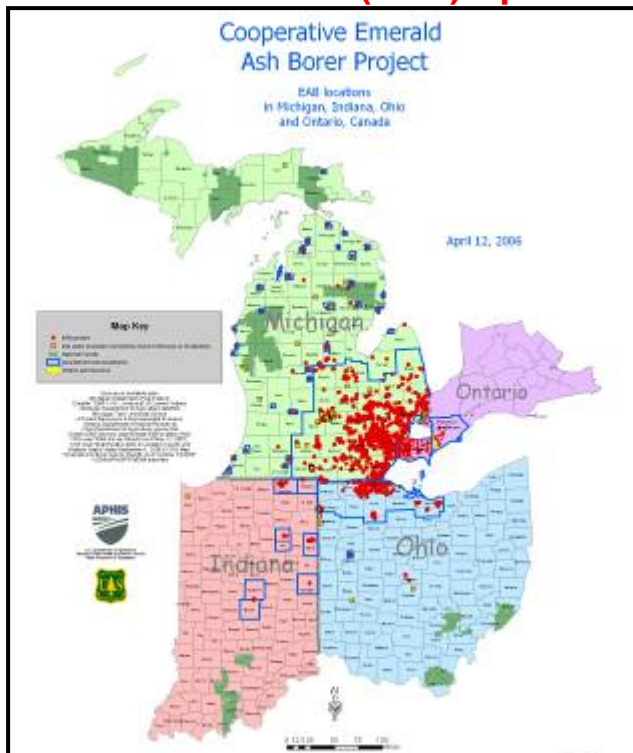
For general gypsy moth information go to: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>

### **Gypsy Moth Proposed Trapping Plans for 2006**

The proposed gypsy moth trapping plan for 2006 has a reduction in counties that will be surveyed this coming year. All of southeast region and all but Menominee County in northeast region will be dropped from this years trapping plan. In south central region trapping density for Columbia, Dane, Rock, and Sauk (eastern) will be 1 per 4 square miles. Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, and Sauk (western) will have a trapping density of 1 per square mile with scattered delimit areas of 4 or 9 traps per square mile.



## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update



The most up to date distribution of EAB can be seen in the map on the left. Outlier infestations of EAB are continuing to occur due to the transportation of larvae with the movement of firewood. In an effort to detect if the pest is present in Wisconsin, the DNR will be conducting visual surveys of private and county parks in south central and northern Wisconsin this summer. In addition, 25 state parks will be monitoring for EAB with the aid of ash detection trees. Detection trees are girdled ash trees which are known to be an attractant for EAB. These detection trees are useful for detecting low level infestations of EAB. The detection trees will be monitored biweekly June through August.

## Firewood Emergency Rule

The Wisconsin Natural Resource Board has passed an emergency rule prohibiting out-of-state firewood on all state lands. The emergency rule went into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Campers bringing out-of-state firewood to WI state parks will have their firewood confiscated. Procedures on handling the confiscated wood are being finalized. Hearings are planned this summer for establishing a permanent rule related to bringing firewood onto state lands. More to come on this issue...

### Why is firewood a concern?

- Emerald ash borer (EAB) spreads very slowly on its own but may be transported long distances in infested firewood, logs and nursery stock.
- Surveys in Michigan have shown that firewood is the most common mode of long-range transport of EAB.
- Of the 27 outlying EAB infestations in Michigan (outside of the core infestation in the southeast), 22 were suspected as being caused by the movement of firewood.
- Quarantines and restrictions on the movement of nursery stock and wood products are in place in Michigan and other infested areas. Those management tools work well enough, but it's the movement of firewood by individuals – knowingly or otherwise – that is the cause of most new infestations.
- Ash is a favored firewood species as it does not require any curing time before it is burned.

- Other insects and diseases of forest trees such as the fungus that causes oak wilt, the gypsy moth, pine bark beetles and new exotic insects threatening the health of our forests are also transported on or in firewood. Limiting the movement of firewood is an effective way of preventing introduction of injurious pests to our forests.

## EAB and Firewood Posters and Bumper Sticker Available

We currently have two posters and a magnetic bumper sticker available upon request. One poster focuses on the threat EAB brings to Wisconsin and explains how you can be on the lookout for this pest. The second poster explains the dangers of moving firewood in reference to the spread of insect pests and diseases. The magnetic bumper sticker also emphasizes this concept.

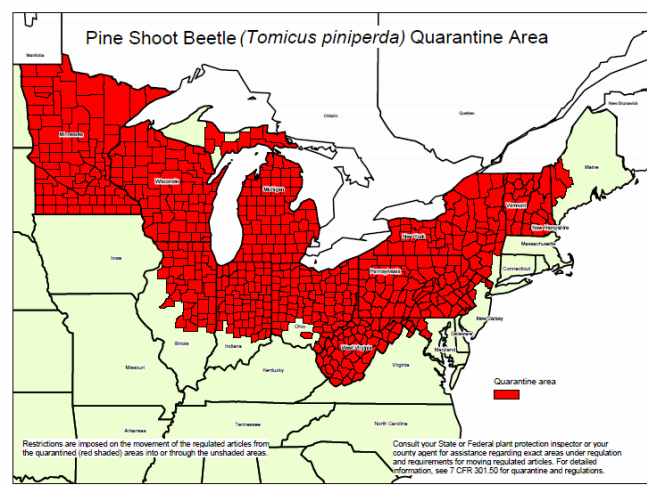


To request a poster or bumper sticker please contact:  
 Renee Pinski  
 Wisconsin DNR Forestry  
 Email: [Renee.Pinski@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Renee.Pinski@dnr.state.wi.us)  
 Phone: 608-275-3231

## Pine shoot beetle statewide quarantine

Effective March 1, 2006, the entire state of Wisconsin became under federal quarantine for the pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*). This replaces the previous 18 individual county quarantines for this insect.

Previously, the movement of regulated items for the pine shoot beetle, such as pine logs and nursery stocks from a quarantined county to a non-quarantined county within Wisconsin had been prohibited during April 1 and June 30. Since the entire state is quarantined now, the quarantine for the pine shoot beetle is not an issue as long as the movement is within Wisconsin or between Wisconsin and another quarantined county in other states. However, regulations will still apply when regulated items are transported from Wisconsin to a non-quarantined state or county. A list of quarantined counties for the pine shoot beetle (as of May 1, 2006) is available at





<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/psb/counties.pdf>. The map above is as of February 28, 2006, and some counties/states have been added as quarantined since then.

## Don't prune or harvest oak

Spring has come. According to the Oak wilt advisory by Dr. Jennifer Juzwik, sap feeding beetles that are the vectors of oak wilt were found in traps in MN by April 14 and conditions are perfect for oak wilt fungal mat production.

The DNR guidelines state that harvesting, pruning or wounding oak trees should be avoided from bud swell up to two or three weeks past full leaf development (generally April 15 to July 1). This is the highest risk period for overland spread of oak wilt. Although the risk of oak wilt spread is low after July, oak wilt could spread after July 1. On valuable trees, no pruning period may be extended from April 1 to October 1 to take a more cautious approach. If a homeowner needs to prune oak during this critical period, he/she should apply wound dressing on the wound surface as soon as the wound is created.

In forest situations, there appears to be a growing need for consistent, state-wide recommendations for harvest activities that are practical and effective to minimize spread and impact of oak wilt in Wisconsin's oak timberlands. To address this issue, a committee was formed last year. The committee consists of DNR Forest Health Protection Unit staff, USDA Forest Service research scientists, and DNR, county, industrial & private foresters. The committee currently focuses on developing a site-specific numerical risk rating system based on scientific and experience-based knowledge. The rating system uses site-specific parameters such as existence of oak in/near the stand, density of oak, topography (hilly vs. flat) and soil type (heavy vs. light).

In order to obtain more data about the risk of oak wilt introduction and impact during early July to mid October, a DNR forest health specialist, Shane Lishawa is taking a leadership role in a project to evaluate the relationship of harvesting period and oak wilt infection using stands in central Wisconsin. This year will be the first year for this four-year study. We will keep you posted on the progress of the rating system and the study.

## Research news – hickory mortality

In recent years, hickory mortality has been reported throughout SCR. Last year, hickory mortality was reported not only from SCR but also from northeastern Wisconsin and other states, such as Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. Mortality has been mainly attributed to infestations by the Hickory bark beetle (*Scolytus quadrispinosus*). However, studies in the 1980's by a UW Professor, Dr. Eugene Smalley indicated that the mortality was associated with the hickory bark beetle and possibly the fungus *Ceratocystis* spp. Subsequent investigations found that there may be two different fungal species involved in hickory dieback/mortality. One is *Ceratocystis smalleyii* that causes lesions, and the other is a possible canker-wilt pathogen, *Ceratocystis caryae*.

This year, Dr. Jennifer Juzwik of the USDA Forest Service is interested in gathering more information on these fungi and investigating what role these fungi and insect vectors might play in hickory dieback and mortality. She plans to collect hickory wood samples from different areas in Lake States. If you know a hickory dieback and mortality site, please contact Kyoko Scanlon. If a FHP staff has visited a hickory mortality site with you previously, probably we will contact you for a possible additional site visit for sample collection.

### **Please report to us**

We appreciate reports of forest health problems in your areas. Currently, there is no regional forest health specialist assigned in SCR or SER. At this point, please contact the following staff for regional forest health problems/questions. Thank you.

For general forest health issues

Jane Cummings-Carlson (northern part of SER) 608-275-3273

Kyoko Scanlon (southern part of SER, and SCR) 608-275-3275

For gypsy moth

Andrea Diss (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

Mark Guthmiller (SCR/SER) 608-275-3223

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803

Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov>

### **About the newsletter**

“SCR & SER Forest Health Update” is an informal newsletter created by the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide foresters in the South Central Region and Southeastern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. This newsletter will be issued monthly during the growing season and on an irregular basis during winter as topics come up. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter and your reports on forest health problems you observed in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Kyoko Scanlon at [Kyoko.Scanlon@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Kyoko.Scanlon@dnr.state.wi.us).